

Sinclair Broadcast Group's plans to air a partisan story denigrating Senator and Presidential Candidate Kerry's wartime record and market the story as "news" illustrates the dangers to accuracy in journalism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Democracy depends on intelligent and civil discourse of the issues facing our nation, not a character bashing commercial masquerading as a documentary timed just before an election. This is irresponsible use of our public airwaves to further a corporation's own political agenda.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.